



United States Department of the Interior
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
CHESAPEAKE MARSHLANDS NWR COMPLEX
Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge
2145 Key Wallace Drive
Cambridge, MD 21613
TEL: 410-901-6124
FAX: 410-221-7738
E-mail: Thomas_J_Miller@fws.gov



READ THIS PAGE CAREFULLY BEFORE APPLYING

Dear YCC Candidate:

We thank you for your interest in the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) program at Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge. The YCC is a federally funded work-learn-earn program aimed at developing an appreciation and understanding of the Nation's natural heritage.

Please read this sheet carefully before applying for the YCC program. Keep this page for your information.

General Program Information

- The 2015 YCC program will run from June 22 through August 14 (8 weeks).
- The refuge will employ four (4) young people during the program. We generally receive 20 to 30 applications.
- YCC recruits work 40 hours a week, Monday through Friday, 7:00 am – 3:30 pm (there is a 30 minute lunch break at 11:30).
- YCC recruits are paid minimum wage, currently \$8.00 per hour (increasing to \$8.25 on July 1).
- There will be a paid holiday on Friday, July 3.
- Recruits are expected to work every day. Absences and appointments must be cleared with the supervisor, and lengthy vacation absences are discouraged.
- You will be provided with uniform T-shirts, hats, boots, gloves, and other safety apparel.
- **You must provide your own transportation to and from work, and bring a lunch.**

YCC Work

- **YCC work involves a great deal of physical labor, most of which will be performed outdoors.**
- Examples of YCC projects include building and painting signs and gates, posting refuge boundary signs, working in the refuge's butterfly garden, maintaining trails, washing cars and farm equipment, and cleaning buildings.
- Working in the hot summer sun and around insects is common.
- You will learn a variety of skills, make new friends, engage in teamwork, and accomplish goals while helping to protect the environment.
- Each week, you will spend several paid hours learning about the environment at the refuge or taking field trips to local museums or natural areas. You are expected to fully participate in this aspect of the program.

Application Information

- Complete the attached YCC application form **neatly**, and make sure that it is signed by both you and your parent or guardian.
- **Return or mail the application by Friday, April 17.** Mail your application back to me at the above address, or you may drop it off at the Blackwater Visitor Center or Headquarters building.
- You must be a permanent resident of the United States, or its territories or possessions.
- You must be at least 15 years old before the beginning of the program (June 22) and may not turn 19 before the end of the program (August 14).
- YCC recruits will be **randomly** selected from applicants in early May (drawn from a hat, as is required by government regulation).
- **YCC recruits need a social security card and a bank account for direct deposit.**
- There will be an evening orientation prior to the start of the program.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at 410-901-6124 or email Thomas_J_Miller@fws.gov .

Thomas J. Miller
Ranger, Blackwater NWR